Eternal Bhoomi

For Earth Consciousness and Sustainable Living

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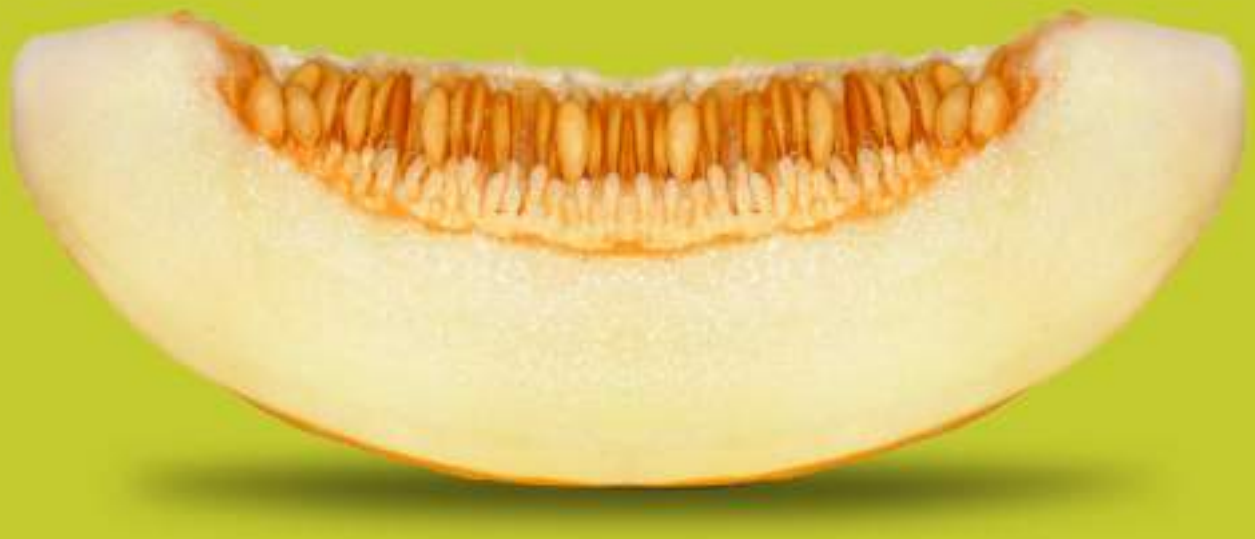
YOUTH:
Seeds of Change



THE 99%
VANDANA SHIVA

Quantum Leap
SATISH KUMAR

Letter from Japan
Junko Edahiro

Focus: Young Pioneers from Around The World

| Earth friendly Cleaning | Delicious Vegan Desserts |

Eternal Bhoomi is committed to bringing you holistic perspectives from renowned writers and thinkers as well as practical ideas and examples of earth conscious living from people around the world

Youth - Seeds of Change:

The theme of this issue :

Every civilisation perpetuates itself through the mainstreaming of its central beliefs, by the conditioning of the minds of the young. In this generation of youth, as in every other, there are the beginnings of questioning and fighting the old and bringing in change - in this case, of sustainable ways of living - by a few pioneering youth around the world - whom we acknowledge and celebrate in this issue.

Vantage Point

6 The 99%
Vandana Shiva
The Occupy movement reminds us all how indigenous cultures have practised democracy

10 Letter from Japan
Junko Edahiro
Younger Japanese consumers are rejecting material abundance

12 Change Yourself Change The World
Nipun Mehta
A one-of-kind Graduation Day Speech

16 Disciplined Minds
Jeff Schmidt

17 Dumbing Us Down
John Taylor Gatto

24 Race to the top
Ron Miller

26 Quantum leap
Satish Kumar
Consciousness exists within and without - it is the intrinsic quality of all beings.

Positive Steps

18 Young Pioneers

36 Earth Friendly Cleaning
Preethi and Shivkumar

39 Eco-Femme
Kathy Walking

46 1 Billion Reasons to Deliver Solar Energy
About Selco and its Founder Harish Hande's pioneering work to bring solar power to the urban and rural poor.

Poster

28 The Organic Way

Perspective

30 Beauty @ What Cost
Rema Kumar

32 Is IP Another Bubble About To Burst
Venkatesh Harihran

34 Discarding Judgement... Befriending Possibilities
Ramya Ranganathan

Food

42 Going Vegan
Sejal Parekh

44 Vegan Recipes
Nandita Shah

48 ***Snippets***

51 ***Membership Page***

53 ***Announcements***

54 ***Deep Focus***

55 ***Bhoomi College Calendar of Events***

Climate Change

Ocean Acidification

Scientists now say that the acidification of our oceans will pose a greater threat to life than climate change.

Please contact the Bhoomi office for:

- Information about distributing the Bhoomi Magazine
- Joining Bhoomi Network as a facilitator for eco-projects any where in India.
- Information about Internships at Bhoomi College

We welcome...

your feedback, suggestions, articles, poems or pictures.

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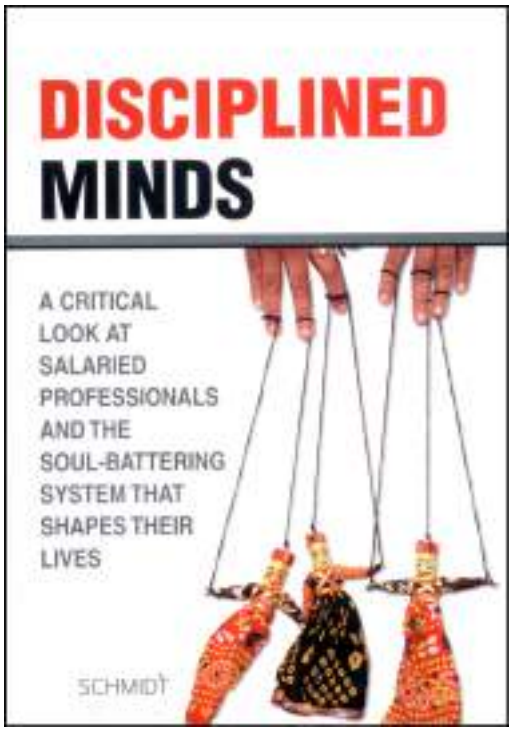
DISCIPLINED
MINDS
A CRITICAL LOOK AT SALARIED PROFESSIONALS AND THE SOUL-BATTERING SYSTEM THAT SHAPES THEIR LIVES
SCHMIDT

In his hard-hitting book Disciplined Minds, Jeff Schmidt questions our education system which seems to be single mindedly focusing on providing a docile, disciplined workforce to the corporates, without worrying about their goals or ethics.

India is seeing unprecedented growth in the ranks of salaried professionals, and formal education is playing a larger role in Indian society than ever before. And increasingly, job requirements demand that employees be mindful of powerful interests. Competition for professional jobs has intensified, and the opportunities for employment, doing mental rather than manual labor, has made education a high-stakes game in India as people seek the credentials that corporate employers demand. Education is playing a bigger role than ever in assigning people to their positions in hierarchical society, and the all-consuming quest for credentials threatens to twist the identity of anyone who enters it, profoundly changing who that person is. Thus, it is no surprise to hear complaints in India about professionals who give unquestioning service to the powerful corporations that employ them, and show little concern about anyone else. As we will see, these "knowledge workers" are selected precisely for their willingness and ability to serve their bosses' political interests.

Social reproduction is easy for the very rich and the very poor, but grueling for families - in -between. The rich simply give their children enormous wealth, such as corporate ownership. This ensures that the classes below them, ranging from manual laborers to high-salaried professionals, will end up working for the children of the rich, in positions within their corporate profit machine. Similarly, people heading for manual labor don't have to worry about things like college admissions and graduate degrees, because they will not need educational credentials. However, those who aspire to professional positions must struggle through much schooling and scrutiny.

The number of professional positions is limited, and so there is intense competition for admission to the elite universities from which multinational corporations and top Indian companies prefer to recruit. Aspiring students from all backgrounds are anxious, because no one is guaranteed victory. However, the competition for elite credentials is rigged in favor of students from families with the most resources and cultural capital, and so the winners and losers are largely known in advance. Why, then, put people through the stress and anxiety of the competition, which ranges from college-entrance "examination hell" to the abusive intellectual boot camp known as graduate or professional school?

The answer is that the competition itself serves powerful interests, and would do so even if it were made fair by eliminating the advantages conferred by family background. Participants compete to conform to standards set by others, and in the process ready themselves to become ideal corporate servants - employees who relentlessly pursue assigned goals without questioning them. So the selection system's most fundamental rigging is in favor of employers who want obedient, politically subordinate employees, not independent thinkers.

Employers do want critical thinkers, and so it is important to distinguish between playpen critical thinking and independent thinking as to which is the "real critical thinking". All professional work involves critical thinking, because professionals are assigned to handle new matters and exercise judgment. But such critical thinking is little more than the ability to say, "Hey, the boss isn't going to like this." You don't need to have your own ideology to say that. You just need to understand the boss's ideology and use it to guide your judgment. That is what I call ideological discipline.

Employers, then, want critical thinkers who are not independent thinkers. They want people who stand for nothing of their own, but stand expertly for the priorities of others, and the education system works to produce such people for them. So the political passiveness of India's most highly educated employees is not an accident. The politically subordinate status of intellectual workers is, in fact, a world-wide phenomenon arising wherever hierarchical organizations employ people. However, as activist Indian students

By working with others, and by understanding how schooling and work are inherently political activities, you can have the fun of surviving education and employment with your values intact, and shaping the world according to your own vision.

and workers frequently show, school administrators and corporate employers don't always get what they want. By working with others, and by understanding how schooling and work are inherently political activities, you can have the fun of surviving education and employment with your values intact, and shaping the world according to your own vision. Many readers of this book have written to me about how it helped them make sense of their experiences in school and at work, giving them the confidence to think independently. (Some of their letters are posted at http://disciplinedminds.com.)

You make a difference in the world only when you do something that would otherwise not be done. That means working on self-assigned projects, not just on things that you have been hired to do.

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jeffschmidt@alumni.uci.edu
This article has been adapted from the Indian / Hindi edition of Disciplined Minds brought out by Banyan Tree, Indore.

NAVDANYA

Earth University / Bija Vidyapeeth Courses 2013

Organic Farming : March 2013
Rejuvenating Soils: Ecological Methods of Soil Fertility

Chemical agriculture is locked into what Sir Albert Howard described as the 'NPK' mentality - fertilizing the soil with non renewable industrial resources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Not only all those raw materials for synthetic fertilizers getting exhausted, they are exhausting the soil by killing soil microorganisms and destroying the structure of the living soil.

The course will equip participants with scientific knowledge of the living soil, and practical knowledge of diverse ecological methods of rejuvenating soil fertility including composts, vermicomposts, panchgavya, jeevamrit, ghanamrit, green manures, mixed cropping, mulching etc.

Grand Mothers University on Living Economies April 2013

The dominant economic model shaped by capitalist patriarchy and corporate greed is in deep cricis. It is destroying the planet and people's lives.

The principals on which it is based are greed and competition. Its measure is ‹economic growth›. Its currency is money.

We need to shift to principals of care and co-operations. We need to move beyond growth. We need to focus on the currency of life. For this transition the knowledge of one grandmothers can be our guide.

The course will focus on developing an understanding of globalization and corporate rule, and of nature centered, people centered alternatives for shaping living economies.

A-Z of Organic Farming 1st -30th September 2013

This 4 week course addresses the physical, intellectual, and holistic aspects of organic farming covering living seed, living soil,living food. Taught in English, for one month the international group will be guided by carefully planned and dedicated instructors who will teach the basics of Navdanya's organic farming methods. Based on Navdanya's biodiversity and conservation farm, the course will be 80% hands on and 20% academic focusing on the practical, theoretical, and political aspects of Soil, Seed, and Food. From Seed Saving to diverse methods of soil fertility renewal like the Panchagavya , to the politics and science of chemical-free farming, students will leave the course with a comprehensive understanding of the how to create, through hands, head, and heart living food systems from seed to table.

Gandhi, Globalization and Earth Democracy 24th Nov - 1st Dec 2013

The economic paradigm based on limitless growth and corporate greed is collapsing across the world. In Europe, the 'indignados' demand an alternative to the imposed austerity of the financial institutions. In the U.S., the Occupy movement has defamed the dominant economy as the economy of the 1 % excluding the 99%.

Everywhere, people are searching for an alternative to corporate rule. Gandhi›s visions, practices and philosophy can give us new inspirations, new ideas, on how to create an Earth Democracy that ensures the well being and freedom of all life on Earth and all people.

This is what the course on Gandhi, Globalization and Earth Democracy will explore with visionary teachers like Satish Kumar, Samdhong Rinpoche and Vandana Shiva.

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